



## A Post-Baccalaureate Opportunity is...

...an opportunity to complete coursework and/or conduct research after your undergraduate studies, allowing you to dive deeper into your area of study. These are highly competitive, and awards are based on a combination of a strong GPA, excellence in the classroom, volunteer work in the community, leadership roles on campus, and passion for the topic.

## What are the Benefits of a Post-Baccalaureate Experience?

- Financial support for education and/or research opportunities
- Opportunity to travel and experience living in another country
- Prestigious award leading to enhanced career and graduate school opportunities
- Create lifelong relationships that can foster employment and graduate school opportunities
- Ability to pursue your passions

## When Do I Start Preparing for Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities?

Now!

Preparation for these competitive opportunities begins the day you set foot on IWU's campus. Listed below is a set of To-Do items by academic year. The plan is to build a strong foundation by first learning about IWU and all it has to offer, along with cementing your academic skills. The list is designed to build on the previous years' experiences, expertise and opportunities. At the end of four years, your investment of time and hard work will lead to a well-rounded set of skills and experiences increasing your competitiveness when seeking employment, graduate school and/or post-baccalaureate opportunities.

## Scholarships...

...are funds awarded to support students who are studying for a degree (undergraduate or graduate school). These are usually awarded based on financial need and/or merit.

## Fellowships...

...in the form of tuition waivers and/or stipends are awarded to support students studying or pursuing research, typically for post-graduate study. These range from one semester to multi-year awards. These are highly competitive and often involve multiple steps, including an application and an interview process.

# Preparing for Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants – 4 Year Plan

## First Year – Become an Engaged IWU Student!

- Prepare for, participate, and engage in class; ask questions!
- Cultivate relationships with faculty - visit office hours to ask questions and explore topics of interest.
- Visit the Writing Center to learn about services they offer and meet with the Library Liaison in your areas of study to better understand available resources for your assignments.
- Attend extracurricular events, including speakers, films, colloquium, discussions, convocations, and Theatre and Music performances. Bring your insights and thoughts to the classroom, to enrich the discussion.
- Visit the Hart Career Center to start a college level resume and discuss internship opportunities.
- Learn about study abroad opportunities by attending the May Term Travel and Study Abroad Fairs in October.
- Visit the International Office to discuss study abroad opportunities that will compliment your area of study, including May Term courses and semester programs in London, Barcelona, Keio University, Pembroke, Morocco and more.
- Participate in one of our 150+ Registered Student Organizations (RSO) or start a new one!
- Check out the Action Research Center (ARC) and learn how to become involved with the local community.
- Learn about the Technos International Week and the Freeman Asia Internship Program. Start thinking about when you might apply for these.
- Spend the summer taking a course, working in an internship, and learning on your own.

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### Self-reflect

What challenges in the classroom are you encountering and how are you addressing them?

Need assistance? Talk with your advisor, professors, Counseling Services, and/or your R.A.

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## Sophomore Year – Go Deeper!

- Update your resume with the past year's activities including what you've accomplished over the summer.
- Strengthen your writing and presentation skills. Look for formal and informal opportunities including in-class, John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference, other undergraduate research venues both at IWU and other campuses, and extracurricular activities.

Enjoy helping  
your classmates?  
Become a tutor!

- Continue to build and strengthen relationships with faculty - participate in research labs or projects, visit office hours.
- Seek out leadership roles across campus including Student Senate, RSO's, ARC, athletics and community volunteering.
- Learn about and apply for the Eckley Summer Scholars and Artists

Fellowship.

- Consider applying for the Technos International Week and the Freeman Asia Internship Program.
- Identify 2-3 faculty who are willing to serve as references (See Faculty References section).
- Visit the Career Center and think creatively about summer plans including internships, fellowships, study, and travel opportunities.
- Pro Tip:* Keep a journal of experiences, challenges, successes and failures to use as background for future essays.

## Junior Year - Focus!

- Update your resume with the past year's activities including what you've accomplished over the summer.
- Plan your year carefully, and choose extracurricular activities strategically. Time is of the essence.
- Submit a proposal to John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference and/or submit your work to an IWU journal such as *Tributaries*, and *The Park Place Economist*.
- Identify 3-5 faculty who are willing to serve as references (See Faculty References section). Continue to build and strengthen these relationships.
- Take on leadership roles across campus including Student Senate, RSO's, ARC, athletics and community volunteering.
- Consider applying for the Eckley Summer Scholars and Artists Fellowship, the Technos International Week, and/or the Freeman Asia Internship Program.
- Visit the Career Center to explore and secure an internship, attend interview and resume workshops, connect with alumni, and begin developing networking opportunities.

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### Document Your Leadership

*Keep a running list of accomplishments you've achieved in leadership positions.*

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## Spring of Junior Year – Post Baccalaureate Opportunities

- Review list of fellowship and grant opportunities on the Associate Provost's webpage. Discuss with advisors and faculty references to determine which opportunities are the best fit.
- Meet with the Associate Provost to discuss institutional support, the application process, and deadlines.
- Identify 3 faculty to serve as an advisory group. With assistance from this group, do the following:
  - Determine which opportunities to pursue.
  - Create a timeline and deadlines.
  - Outline a draft essay.
  - Craft your resume to fit individual applications.
  - Keep in close communication with your advisory group - update them on your progress.

## Summer Between Junior and Senior Year

- Seek feedback on your draft statements.
- Finalize your application.
- Provide necessary information to references, including deadlines, draft statements, submission directions
- Prepare for interviews.
- Submit all materials by agreed upon deadline (mid-September), in advance of the official deadline.

## Senior Year – The Finish Line!

- Update resume.
- Visit Career Center to discuss job search process.
- Discuss graduate school opportunities with faculty advisors.
- Continue leadership roles across campus including Student Senate, RSO's, ARC, athletics and community volunteering.
- After graduation connect with the IWU Alumni Association.
- Write thank you notes to faculty advisors, update them on your post-graduation plans, and stay in contact.

## Faculty References - How to Make the Request

- Identify faculty to write letters of recommendation.
- Identify more names than you'll need.
- Make an appointment to discuss the request.
- Be prepared to make a case for yourself: have an outline or draft of your statement(s) ready to share and bring an updated resume.
- Be prepared to explain your specific interest and plans.

